

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083834

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK RANGOON HONG
KONG FROM VIENTIANE 02 MAY 73:

QUOTE VIENTIANE 3356

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, XC, LA

SUBJECT: TRI- COUNTRY PAPER ON PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING

1. FOLLOWING PAPER ON PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING WAS DISCUSSED AND
APPROVED
AT TRI- COUNTRY NARCOTICS MEETING HELD IN VIENTIANE 26-28 APRIL.
PAPER HAS THE PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT OF AMBASSADORS UNGER AND
MARTIN,
AS WELL AS MYSELF. DEPARTMENT MAY REPEAT IT TO OTHER POSTS AS
APPROPRIATE.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF PAPER: QUOTE HK NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER NORMAN
ROLPH
HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE " RE- THINK" THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST PRE-
EMPTIVE BUYS. HE REASONS THAT THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT AND LONG-
TERM
CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS ARE SIMPLY NOT ADEQUATE TO STOP THE
HEAVY
AMOUNT OF ILLICIT OPIATES EMANATING FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA.
HE SUGGESTS THAT PURCHASE OF THE ENTIRE CROP FROM THE GOLDEN TRI-
ANGLE IS WITHIN THE FINANCIAL MEANS OF INTERESTED VICTIM COUNTRIES,
SUCH AS THE US AND UK (ESPECIALLY, WE SUSPECT HE IS THINKING,
THE FORMER). ROLPH BELIEVES THAT THERE IS AN OUTER LIMIT OF MAXIMUM
OPIUM PRODUCTION THAT IS WITHIN FINANCIAL REACH. ROLPH HOPES TO BUY
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TIME FOR THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS TO TAKE EFFECT AND TO REMOVE THE OPIATES FROM THE MARKET IN THE INTERIM.

3. QUOTE - THE CONCEPT OF PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY A VIOLATION OF THE SINGLE CONVENTION, HAS BEEN ROUNDLY CONDEMNED BY VIRTUALLY ALL GOVLOGISTICAL PROBLEMS
IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT WE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ABLE TO SHIP ANY WHEAT BEFORE JULY WHEN NEW HARVEST COMES IN.

3. REES REVIEWED SITUATION WITH MUHITH AND CHOUDHURY OF BANGLADESH EMBASSY ON APRIL 20 AND THEY HAVE SINCE MET WITH USDA OFFICIALS. REES POINTED OUT WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLY 200,000 MT OF WHEAT UNDER BILATERAL GRANT AND 300,000 MT UNDER TITLE I TO COMPLETE OUR SHARE IN MEETING THE CY 73 BD BOOD- GRAIN DEFICIT. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE NOTED PROBLEMS WE CANNOT EXPECT BEGIN SHIPMENTS UNTIL JULY WHATEVER THE FUNDING SOURCE AND THEN PROBABLY AT MAXIMUM RATE OF 100-150,000 MT A MONTH. THEREFOR E, PART OF OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD GO TO END OF YEAR STOCK RATHER THAN MEET PRE- AMAN DEFICIT.

4. REF (C) APPROVED 10,000 MT VEGOIL UNDER TITLE II. HAVE INFORMED MUHITH AID THINKING OF 20,000 MT UNDER BILATERAL GRANT, 20,000 MT UNDER TITLE I IN CY 73 AND FURTHER 20,000 MT IN EARLY CY 74.

5. OTHER THAN THE DOLS 8.7 MILLION FOR FERTILIZER APPROVED EARLIER, WE SEE NO PARTICULAR NEED TO PROGRAM FY 1973 GRANT FUNDS IN DETAIL AT THIS MOMENT. THE BALANCE OF THE FIRST TRANCHE AND THE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 45 MILLION ANTICIPATED SECOND TRANCHE SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED AS PARTS OF A SINGLE GRANT. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO NEED TO PROGRAM RIGIDLY AT THIS TIME. WHAT IS NEEDED IS SUFFICIENT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WITH BDG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ESTABLISH FACT THAT REQUIREMENTS WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE TO USG FINANCING EXIST IN A GENERAL MAGNITUDE AT LEAST AS LARGE AS THAT OF THE GRANT(S) RECOMMENDED. DETAILED PROGRAMMING OCCURS AFTER GRANT AGREEMENT AND, EVEN THEN, IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS EITHER NEEDS OR AVAILABILITIES CHANGE.

6. THIS MESSAGE IS ASIA BUREAU GUIDANCE ON GENERAL POLICY ASPECTS OF GRANT PROGRAMMING AND IS NOT DETAILED GUIDANCE ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY DECISIONS. AS SUCH THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY CLEARED WITH USDA AND THEY ARE NOT NECES-

SARILY COMMITTED TO THE AID POSITIONS GIVEN ABOVE.

7. NEED YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON ANY SUBSEQUENT GRANT SOONEST
BECAUSE OF 20 PERCENT JUNE OBLIGATION LIMITATION.

8. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 5/2/74. ROGERS

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